United Nations E/2010/NGO/88

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2010

Original: English

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-22 July 2010
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Center for Women's Global Leadership, Amnesty International, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer and Women's Environment and Development Organization

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

10-36778 (E) 210610

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Statement

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign, a network comprised of 310 organizations worldwide, welcomes the themes of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council.

In this historic year of celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995, women's, human rights and social justice groups urge Member States and the United Nations Secretariat to establish the promised gender equality entity as soon as possible. Women have waited long enough and the United Nations must implement changes that are crucial to fulfilling its mandate in working for gender equality and the advancement of women as a critical component of the global agenda for development, human rights and peace and security.

A stronger United Nations entity for women will enable the United Nations and its Member States to better deliver on their numerous commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in addition to many others.

On 14 September 2009, the General Assembly adopted a historic resolution (A/RES/63/311) supporting the consolidation of the four existing United Nations gender equality entities into a composite women's entity, to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. The GEAR campaign welcomed this resolution, as well as the recent report of the Secretary-General entitled "Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women" (A/64/588), which addresses many of the key issues for the launch of the new women's entity and demands final closure on this issue during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

We urge Member States to move swiftly on a resolution that will create the gender equality entity by July 2010. The following elements are fundamental to the establishment of the new entity:

- Universal country presence and a strong policy and programmatic mandate to ensure that the entity is the United Nations system's driver for women's empowerment and gender equality.
- Substantial, multi-year core funding and a commitment to a budget of $1 billion, with increases over time.
- Formal mechanisms for meaningful and systematic participation of civil society, particularly women's organizations, in the governance structure of the entity, with civil society advisory bodies at the global, regional and national levels.
- A transparent process to recruit an Under-Secretary-General to head the entity. The ideal candidate should combine a global vision with gender equality expertise in working for women's empowerment on the ground, as well as the ability to secure funding and lead the organizational transition process.

To close the gap in realizing women's rights, the United Nations has recognized the need for a strong, well-resourced coordinated body to be a driver for these goals at the highest levels of leadership, both at Headquarters and in the field. Now is the time to take action and build a United Nations that really works for all women!